



MEDIA RELEASE: TUESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER, 2018

ROADS AND RAIL ON THE AGENDA AT SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

Roads and rail were key items on the agenda of what was a jam-packed September Ordinary Council Meeting.

Strathbogie Shire Council endorsed the appointment of a Roads Advisory Committee, which will advise Council on:

- ✓ Development and review of policy and strategy relating to the road network
- ✓ Policy relating to the management of roadsides
- ✓ Potential advocacy priorities regarding road safety issues and initiatives of community benefit

Mr John Dunn, Mr Craig Hahnel and Mr Paul Swan were the community representatives selected to sit on the committee, with Cr Graeme Williams selected as committee chair and Cr Alistair Thomson as the second councillor representative.

VicRoads North Eastern Manager Planning, Ms Rebecca Steer and Manager Operations, Mr Steve McCallum, were also selected to sit on the advisory committee.

The committee's first meeting will take place before the end of October 2018.

Council also supported membership to the Rail Freight Alliance, at a yearly cost of \$3000.

The Rail Freight Alliance (RFA) is made up of Victorian rural, regional and metropolitan local government councils and is focused on ensuring increased investment in Victoria's rail freight system.

Mayor Amanda McClaren said becoming part of the alliance will allow Strathbogie Shire to unite with other councils as a strong voice on rail freight.

"We have been working actively to advocate for our communities, particularly in the lead up to State and Federal Elections, and rail freight has been one of our key advocacy areas," Cr McClaren explained.

"In particular, Mangalore Airport has been identified in the Hume Strategy as a potential logistics/freight hub due to its proximity to the Goulburn Valley rail lines and the Goulburn Valley and Hume Freeways."

However, Mangalore Airport isn't currently identified in the Regional Freight Alliance Policy Statement 2018.

By joining the RFA, Council has also has an opportunity to influence this policy and have a seat at the table in these important discussions," Cr McClaren said.

Other items endorsed at the recent Ordinary Council Meeting:

- ✓ Ruffy Community Action Group Community Plan 2018- 2022
- ✓ Draft Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2018- 2020
- ✓ Contribution of \$3000 sponsorship for *The Nightmare Continues... Act III* event in Violet Town
- ✓ Contribution of \$3000 in-kind and cash sponsorship for the 2019 Euroa Apex Pro Rodeo
- ✓ Contribution of \$400 and in-kind support for Avenel Primary School Energy Breakthrough event

Visit Council's website to access the minutes of the September Ordinary Council Meeting:
<http://www.strathbogje.vic.gov.au/council/about-council/council-meetings-a-minutes>

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